

Sparrow Hawks Nesting in a Bird House.— A pair of Sparrow Hawks have nested in a sort of a pigeon house that was built by a man on my place and fastened on top of a pole about 18 feet from the ground and placed in the middle of the chicken yard. It somewhat resembles a martin house, though the holes are larger. Of course, they have the house to themselves. It is located within 200 feet of a Martin house occupied by a large colony of these birds which are continually worrying the hawks when they return with food for the young. A week ago when I looked in the box there were three or four young ones covered with white down.— Wm. H. BROWNING, *New York, N. Y.*

Black Vulture in Massachusetts.— A female Black Vulture (*Catharista urubu*) was shot by Archer L. Pierce, Aug. 20, 1917, on the Burnham estate at the west end of Wenham, Mass. The bird was eating from a garbage pail at the time. The specimen has been sent to the Boston Society of Natural History.— JOHN C. PHILLIPS, *Wenham, Mass.*

Crow Roost near Boston, Pennsylvania.— For more than fifteen years there has been a large crow roost in the hilltops adjoining the borough of Boston, Pa. Recently a few hunters with shot guns have compelled the Crows to change their roost a distance of one fourth of a mile north to the hilltops of "Deadman's Hollow" which brings it within about half a mile of the city limits of McKeesport.

The writer succeeded in making a fair estimate of the number of birds gathering at the roost. Acres of trees blackened by masses of noisy crows is the usual impression that one gets from a visit to the winter night rendezvous. On March 10, 1916, the crows were driven out of the woods as they were gathering to roost whereupon they settled down over about 100 acres of snow covered fields. There they were visible and estimating one crow to every 200 square feet, a very low safe estimate, an approximate number of 20,000 crows was the result.

The ground covered and other factors entering into the estimate depends upon the writer's judgment as a civil engineer and surveyor.

This year while taking our Christmas bird census for 'Bird-Lore' 1,500 crows were counted flying overhead down the Youghiogheny River to the roost. The vast bulk of the crows came from the other directions and the 1,500 counted represent but a small percentage of the total number of crows.— THOS. L. MCCONNELL, *McKeesport, Pa.*

Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) at Springfield, Mass.— For the last few years the Evening Grosbeak appears to be a regular winter visitor to this region. If this bird is to continue to appear here during the colder months, it will be interesting to know when its coming and going may be expected. Last season in central Massachusetts

its presence was first noted early in October, and the last one reported as seen here was upon May 18.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Evening Grosbeak at Lakewood, N. J.—I am able to add a small item to the record of the Evening Grosbeak in New Jersey.¹ At Lakewood, on the morning of March 21, 1917, near the corner of Forest Avenue and Second Street, I found a flock of about a dozen birds some of which were on the ground, feeding, others resting in bushes and small deciduous trees. They were gone before I could make sure whether any males were amongst them.

These are the only Evening Grosbeaks I have ever seen at Lakewood, where I have passed several weeks or several months during most of the winter seasons for twenty years.—NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, *Portland, Maine.*

Evening Grosbeaks at Hatley, Stanstead County, Quebec.—Since my previous note on the winter birds (*Auk*, Vol. XXXIV, 1917, No. 2, p. 217) Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) I am pleased to say have paid us a visit on their way home to the far northwest, being first noticed on March 10, when a pair were seen feeding on the seeds of the locust or false acacia tree. Five days later a flock of seven (out of which I obtained a fine male) visited my garden, feeding on the seeds of some crab apples still remaining on one of the trees, and on the twenty-first five more were observed in the same tree, of which no less than four were males in fine plumage. In addition to these fourteen examples Mr. W. E. Greer of Hatley Centre, informs me that he has seen a similar number, five on March 11, feeding on the seeds of some crab apples in his orchard, and nine on the seventeenth in a neighbor's orchard, which only alighted however for a minute (as there were no apples on the trees) and then continued their journey in a northerly direction. A noticeable feature this year both with regard to this species and the Pine Grosbeak (*Pinicola enucleator leucura*) the last of which were seen on April 14, has been the large number of full plumaged males, so different from previous years, when nearly all the flocks were composed of either females or immature males. My example of *H. vespertina vespertina* was given to the Victoria Memorial Museum at Ottawa, and I believe I am correct in stating that so far as the present material (which is somewhat scanty) there goes, it seems to indicate that there is no such thing in Canada as the Western race.—H. MOUSLEY, *Hatley, Que.*

English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Feeding on the Larva of the Elm Tree Beetle.—Here in West Haven we have a great many elm trees, which, if not sprayed, are badly infested with the elm tree beetle, the larvæ of which eat holes in the leaves causing them to turn yellow and

¹ See *Auk*, XXXIV, pp. 210-212, and p. 218.